

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed July 10, 2008, and made final, has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment and following remarks have been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1-27 are now pending in this application. Claims 1-9 have been withdrawn. Claims 10-27 stand rejected.

The rejection of Claims 10, 13, 14, 17-19, 22, 23, 26, and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Publication No. 2001/0032109 to Gonyea et al. (hereinafter referred to as “Gonyea”) in view of U.S. Publication No. 2002/0016655 to Joao et al. (hereinafter referred to as “Joao”), further in view of U.S. Publication No. 2002/0161533 to Uegaki (hereinafter referred to as “Uegaki”) is respectfully traversed.

Gonyea describes a system (28) for predicting a maintenance schedule (64) and associated maintenance costs (66) for future service events to be performed on a product (38). A plurality of components (34) and sub-components (38) are included in each product (38). System (28) includes a local computer (10) that is coupled in communication to a server computer (15) using a network (13). Computer (15) is also coupled to a database (26) for the storage and retrieval of data relating to predicting the maintenance schedules (64) and costs (66). Specifically, system (28) predicts the maintenance schedule (64) and costs (66) of future service events of each product (38). Operating condition data (50) is input into system (28) by the owner of a product (32). Data (50) includes the actual time each product (32) is in use and the details of the operating environment. Alternatively, the operating conditions data (50) may include forecasted values that may be used for estimation purposes.

System (28) computes the costs and prices associated with the event including those for parts, services, repairs and risks for every event in the schedule. More specifically, such computing (28) includes sequentially simulating the execution of each event in the schedule (64). Moreover, for each event in the schedule (64), a multi-step logical function is used to compute the costs (66) and prices. The logical function includes the steps of: determining which parts need to be replaced, verifying if spare/replacement parts are available in the inventory pools, determining if any new spare parts must be purchased, scheduling the parts removed from a unit for repair and/or refurbishment if required, determining which services

need to be performed during the event, estimating risks associated with the event, and computing costs (66) and prices associated with the event including those associated with parts, services, repairs, and risks. Notably, Gonyea does not describe nor suggest determining whether a user has input all information necessary to generate a financial report and presenting an error message to the user if it is determined that not all necessary information to generate a financial report was input.

Joao describes an apparatus 100 that includes a user communication device or computer 20 that is associated with a user/owner/operator of a vehicle. The owner, or operator, can post a request for repair services, maintenance services, servicing services, parts, equipment, components, and/or accessories, for the vehicle. The information can include the types and/or kinds of services needed, price(s) willing to be paid, conditions for engaging the user, owner, or operator, and/or any other information for engaging the user, owner, or operator. Notably, Joao does not describe nor suggest determining whether a user has input all information necessary to generate a financial report and presenting an error message to the user if it is determined that not all necessary information to generate a financial report was inputted.

Uegaki describes a system that includes a PC 20 for use in recognizing damaged parts in vehicle involved in an accident. A control unit 5a in PC 20 receives image data 51 for the car model associated with the damaged vehicle. Image data 51 is displayed on a screen 50. A user marks a damaged area and impact force on the screen 50 using an input device 2, such as a keyboard. Control unit 5a then determines the location and degree of damage of each damaged part. A main storage device 6 of PC 20 includes a data module 6b that stores vehicle part prices and service costs for use in replacing or repairing the parts. Control unit 5a calculates a cost of repair of the damaged vehicle by integrating the prices of parts and services needed to fix each damaged part. Data module 6b may also store a ranking of the condition of available parts, such as “new” or “used.” Notably, Uegaki does not describe nor suggest determining whether a user has input all information necessary in order to generate a financial report and presenting an error message to the user if it is determined that not all necessary information to generate a financial report was input.

Claim 10 recites a network based system for maintaining at least one component, said system comprising “a client system . . . a centralized database for storing information . . . a server system configured to be coupled to said client system and said database, said server

system further configured to . . . receive, at the database, component operational history data and component inspection data from a user for a pre-identified component . . . receive, at the database, a customer expectation of contingency fees and service prices from the user; receive, at the database, costs comprising at least one of component replacement part costs, component part repair costs, and vendor service costs, the costs are associated with the pre-identified component and are determined using pre-stored costs related to the pre-identified component . . . prompt a user to input a pre-determined component operational forecast into the database . . . determine whether the user input all information necessary to generate a financial report; present an error message to the user if it is determined that not all information necessary to generate a financial report was input . . .”

No combination of Gonyea, Joao, and Uegaki, describes nor suggests a network based system for maintaining at least one component, as is recited in Claim 10. No combination of Gonyea, Joao, and Uegaki, describes nor suggests a system that determines whether a user has input all information necessary to generate a financial report, and presenting an error message to the user if it is determined that not all necessary information to generate a financial report was input. Rather, in contrast, Gonyea describes that operating condition data is input into a system by an owner of a product, but does not describe nor suggest that the data input is checked to determine if the data is complete, Joao describes that a system in which an owner or operator can post a request for repair services, maintenance services, servicing services, parts, equipment, components, and/or accessories, for a vehicle via a computer, and Uegaki merely describes a system that enables a user to select a damaged area on an image of a vehicle to enable the cost of parts and services needed to repair the damage to be calculated. Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 10 is patentable over Gonyea in view of Joao, and further in view of Uegaki.

Claims 13, 14, 17, and 18 depend from independent Claim 10. When the recitations of Claims 13, 14, 17, and 18 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 10, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent Claims 13, 14, 17, and 18 likewise are patentable over Gonyea in view of Joao, and further in view of Uegaki.

Claim 19 recites a computer program embodied on a computer readable medium for maintaining at least one component, said program comprising a code segment that receives, at a database, component operational history data and component inspection data from a user

for a pre-identified component and then “receives, at the database, a customer expectation of contingency fees and service prices from the user . . . receives, at the database, costs comprising at least one of component replacement part costs, component part repair costs, and vendor service costs, the costs are associated with the pre-identified component and are determined using pre-stored costs related to the pre-identified component . . . prompts a user to input a pre-determined component operational forecast into the database . . . determines whether the user has input all necessary information in order to generate a financial report . . . presents an error message to the user if it is determined that not all necessary information to generate a financial report was input . . .”

No combination of Gonyea, Joao, and Uegaki, describes nor suggests a computer program embodied on a computer readable medium for maintaining at least one component, as is recited in Claim 19. No combination of Gonyea, Joao, and Uegaki, describes nor suggests determining whether a user has input all information necessary to generate a financial report, and presenting an error message to the user if it is determined that not all necessary information to generate a financial report was input. Rather, in contrast, Gonyea describes that operating condition data is input into a system by an owner of a product, but does not describe nor suggest that the data input is checked to determine if the data is complete, Joao describes that a system in which an owner or operator can post a request for repair services, maintenance services, servicing services, parts, equipment, components, and/or accessories, for a vehicle via a computer, and Uegaki merely describes a system that enables a user to select a damaged area on an image of a vehicle to enable the cost of parts and services needed to repair the damage to be calculated.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 19 is patentable over Gonyea in view of Joao, further in view of Uegaki.

Claims 22, 23, 26, and 27 depend from independent Claim 19. When the recitations of Claims 22, 23, 26, and 27 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 19, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent Claims 22, 23, 26, and 27 likewise are patentable over Gonyea in view of Joao, further in view of Uegaki.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 103 rejection of Claims 10, 13, 14, 17-19, 22, 23, 26, and 27 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 11 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gonyea in view of Joao, further in view of Uegaki, and further in view of U.S. Pub. No. 2002/20059269 to McQuown et al. (hereinafter referred to as “McQuown”) is respectfully traversed.

Gonyea, Joao, and Uegaki are as described above.

McQuown describes a portable unit 14 that is used to service a locomotive 12 parked at a railroad service yard 13. Repair, maintenance, and diagnostic information is wirelessly exchanged between portable unit 14 and a remotely located monitoring and diagnostic service center (“MDSC”) 20. A technician troubleshooting locomotive 12 uses portable unit 14 to access on-board monitoring data from locomotive 12, transmit it to MDSC 20, and receive from MDSC 20, a repair recommendation and information required to make the repair. In addition, a parts-ordering module 58 includes an on-line ordering system that enables portable unit 14 to order parts for inventory or for a specific repair. Parts-ordering module 58 provides access for portable unit 14 to on-line catalogs issued by suppliers of locomotive components. Notably, McQuown does not describe nor suggest a system that determines whether a user has input all information necessary to generate a financial report, and presenting an error message to the user if it is determined that not all necessary information to generate a financial report was input.

Claim 11 depends from independent Claim 10 which is recited above. No combination of Gonyea, Joao, Uegaki, and McQuown describes nor suggests a network based system for maintaining at least one component, as is recited in Claim 10. No combination of Gonyea, Joao, Uegaki, and McQuown, describes nor suggests a system that determines whether a user has input all information necessary to generate a financial report, and presenting an error message to the user if it is determined that not all necessary information to generate a financial report was input. Rather, in contrast, Gonyea describes that operating condition data is input into a system by an owner of a product, but does not describe nor suggest that the data input is checked to determine if the data is complete, Joao describes that a system in which an owner or operator can post a request for repair services, maintenance services, servicing services, parts, equipment, components, and/or accessories, for a vehicle via a computer, Uegaki merely describes a system that enables a user to select a damaged area on an image of a vehicle to enable the cost of parts and services needed to repair the damage to be calculated, and McQuown merely describes remotely ordering repair parts from

a supplier's on-line catalog. Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 10 is patentable over Gonyea in view of Joao, further in view of Uegaki, and further in view of McQuown.

Claim 11 depends from independent Claim 10. When the recitations of Claim 11 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 10, Applicants submit that dependent Claim 11 likewise is patentable over Gonyea in view of Joao, further in view of Uegaki, and further in view of McQuown.

Claim 20 depends from independent Claim 19 which is recited above. No combination of Gonyea, Joao, Uegaki, and McQuown describes nor suggests a computer program embodied on a computer readable medium for maintaining at least one component, as is recited in Claim 19. No combination of Gonyea, Joao, Uegaki, and McQuown, describes nor suggests determining whether a user has input all information necessary to generate a financial report, and presenting an error message to the user if it is determined that not all necessary information to generate a financial report was input. Rather, in contrast, Gonyea describes that operating condition data is input into a system by an owner of a product, but does not describe nor suggest that the data input is checked to determine if the data is complete, Joao describes that a system in which an owner or operator can post a request for repair services, maintenance services, servicing services, parts, equipment, components, and/or accessories, for a vehicle via a computer, Uegaki merely describes a system that enables a user to select a damaged area on an image of a vehicle to enable the cost of parts and services needed to repair the damage to be calculated, and McQuown merely describes remotely ordering repair parts from a supplier's on-line catalog. Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 19 is patentable over Gonyea in view of Joao, further in view of Uegaki, and further in view of McQuown.

Claim 20 depends from independent Claim 19. When the recitations of Claim 20 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 19, Applicants submit that dependent Claim 20 likewise is patentable over Gonyea in view of Joao, further in view of Uegaki, and further in view of McQuown.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 103 rejection of Claims 11 and 20 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 12 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gonyea in view of Joao, further in view of Uegaki, and further in view of U.S. Publication No. 2001/0014868 to Herz et al. (hereinafter referred to as “Herz”) and JP 2002-149861 Tsunoda et al. (hereinafter referred to as “Tsunoda”) is respectfully traversed.

Gonyea, Joao, and Uegaki are as described above.

Herz describes a system 100 for use in automatically determining customized prices and promotions for individual shoppers or types of shoppers. Herz recites that a “standard approach is to advertise a high list price, but to furnish discount coupons to selected customers.” (See Herz, paragraph [0279].) System 100 uses a computer network to provide selected customers with electronic analogs to such discount coupons. Notably, Herz does not describe nor suggest a system that determines whether a user has input all information necessary to generate a financial report and presenting an error message to the user if it is determined that not all necessary information to generate a financial report was input.

Tsunoda describes a commodity sales method and system. In Tsunoda, “a discount price is calculated and presented to the continuously ordering customers to urge them to early perform the replacement of the commodity or parts and the supply of expendable supplies.” (“Solution” at lines 15-18.) Notably, Tsunoda does describe nor suggest determining whether a user has input all information necessary to generate a financial report and presenting an error message to the user if it is determined that not all necessary information to generate a financial report was input.

Claim 12 depends from independent Claim 10 which is recited above. No combination of Gonyea, Joao, Uegaki, Herz, and Tsunoda describes nor suggests a network based system for maintaining at least one component, as is recited in Claim 10. No combination of Gonyea, Joao, Uegaki, Herz, and Tsunoda, describes nor suggests a system that determines whether a user has input all information necessary to generate a financial report, and presenting an error message to the user if it is determined that not all necessary information to generate a financial report was input. Rather, in contrast, Gonyea describes that operating condition data is input into a system by an owner of a product, but does not describe nor suggest that the date input is checked to determine if the data is complete, Joao describes that a system in which an owner or operator can post a request for repair services, maintenance services, servicing services, parts, equipment, components, and/or accessories,

for a vehicle via a computer, and Uegaki merely describes a system that enables a user to select a damaged area on an image of a vehicle to enable the cost of parts and services needed to repair the damage to be calculated. Herz describes advertising a high list price for an item, but furnishing discount coupons to selected customers, and Tsunoda describes calculating and presenting a discount price to customers to entice the customers into replacing commodities and/or parts and/or purchasing expendable supplies. Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 10 is patentable over Gonyea in view of Joao, further in view of Uegaki, and further in view of Herz and Tsunoda.

Claim 12 depends from independent Claim 10. When the recitations of Claim 12 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 10, Applicants submit that dependent Claim 12 likewise is patentable over Gonyea in view of Joao, further in view of Uegaki, and further in view of Herz and Tsunoda.

Claim 21 depends from independent Claim 19 which recited above. No combination of Gonyea, Joao, Uegaki, Herz, and Tsunoda describes nor suggests a computer program embodied on a computer readable medium for maintaining at least one component, as is recited in Claim 19. No combination of Gonyea, Joao, Uegaki, Herz, and Tsunoda, describes nor suggests determining whether a user has input all information necessary to generate a financial report, and presenting an error message to the user if it is determined that not all necessary information to generate a financial report was input. Rather, in contrast, Gonyea describes that operating condition data is input into a system by an owner of a product, but does not describe nor suggest that the date input is checked to determine if the data is complete, Joao describes that a system in which an owner or operator can post a request for repair services, maintenance services, servicing services, parts, equipment, components, and/or accessories, for a vehicle via a computer, and Uegaki merely describes a system that enables a user to select a damaged area on an image of a vehicle to enable the cost of parts and services needed to repair the damage to be calculated. Herz describes advertising a high list price for an item, but furnishing discount coupons to selected customers, and Tsunoda describes calculating and presenting a discount price to customers to entice the customers into replacing commodities and/or parts and/or purchasing expendable supplies. Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 19 is patentable over Gonyea in view of Joao, further in view of Uegaki, and further in view of Herz and Tsunoda.

Claim 21 depends from independent Claim 19. When the recitations of Claim 21 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 19, Applicants submit that dependent Claim 21 likewise is patentable over Gonyea in view of Joao, further in view of Uegaki, and further in view of Herz and Tsunoda.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 103 rejection of Claims 12 and 21 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 15, 16, 24, and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gonyea in view of Joao, further in view of Uegaki, and further in view of the Examiner's Official Notice is respectfully traversed.

Gonyea, Joao, and Uegaki are as described above.

The Official Notice taken at page 10 of the Office Action is merely that "prompting a user to enter data is old and well known in the art of database management." However, even in light of the Official Notice, the combination of Gonyea, Joao, Uegaki, and Official Notice describes nor suggest dependent Claims 15, 16, 24, and 25.

Claims 15 and 16 depend from independent Claim 10. No combination of Gonyea, Joao, Uegaki, and Official Notice, describes nor suggests a network based system for maintaining at least one component, as is recited in Claim 10. No combination of Gonyea, Joao, Uegaki, and Official Notice, describes nor suggests a system that determines whether a user has input all information necessary to generate a financial report, and presenting an error message to the user if it is determined that not all necessary information to generate a financial report was input. Rather, in contrast, Gonyea describes that operating condition data is input into a system by an owner of a product, but does not describe nor suggest that the data input is checked to determine if the data is complete, and Joao merely describes that a system in which an owner or operator can post a request for repair services, maintenance services, servicing services, parts, equipment, components, and/or accessories, for a vehicle via a computer. Uegaki merely describes a system that enables a user to select a damaged area on an image of a vehicle to enable the cost of parts and services needed to repair the damage to be calculated, and the Official Notice merely describes prompting a user to enter data. Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 10 is patentable over Gonyea, in view of Joao, further in view Uegaki, and further in view of the Official Notice.

Claims 15 and 16 depend from independent Claim 10. When the recitations of Claims 15 and 16 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 10, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent Claims 15 and 16 likewise are patentable over Gonyea, in view of Joao, further in view of Uegaki, and further in view of the Official Notice.

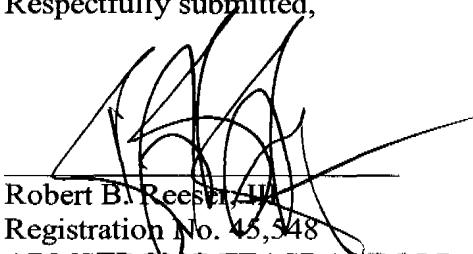
Claims 24 and 25 depend from Independent Claim 19. No combination of Gonyea, Joao, Uegaki, and Official Notice describes nor suggests a computer program embodied on a computer readable medium for maintaining at least one component, as is recited in Claim 19. No combination of Gonyea, Joao, Uegaki, and Official Notice, describes nor suggests determining whether a user has input all information necessary to generate a financial report, and presenting an error message to the user if it is determined that not all necessary information to generate a financial report was input. Rather, in contrast, Gonyea describes that operating condition data is input into a system by an owner of a product, but does not describe nor suggest that the data input is checked to determine if the data is complete, and Joao merely describes that a system in which an owner or operator can post a request for repair services, maintenance services, servicing services, parts, equipment, components, and/or accessories, for a vehicle via a computer. Uegaki merely describes a system that enables a user to select a damaged area on an image of a vehicle to enable the cost of parts and services needed to repair the damage to be calculated, and the Official Notice merely describes prompting a user to enter data. Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 19 is patentable over Gonyea, in view of Joao, further in view Uegaki, and further in view of the Official Notice.

Claims 24 and 25 depend from independent Claim 19. When the recitations of Claims 24 and 25 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 19, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent Claims 24 and 25 likewise are patentable over Gonyea in view of Uegaki, and further in view of the Official Notice.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 103 rejection of Claims 15, 16, 24, and 25 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


Robert B. Rees, P.J.
Registration No. 45,548
ARMSTRONG TEASDALE LLP
One Metropolitan Square, Suite 2600
St. Louis, Missouri 63102-2740
(314) 621-5070